

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending. Claims 1, 3, and 4-6 have been amended and claims 8-13 have been added herein. Support for the amendments is found in the specification at page 1, lines 12-14, “a light source...in a lean gas”; page 3, lines 5-12; page 3, lines 21-31; and page 4, lines 1-5.

Applicants’ Response to the Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claim 6 stands rejected to as being identical to claim 5. The rejection appears to be based on the interpretation that an “information processing apparatus”, as recited in claim 5, would by necessity, have a “display device” per claim 6. In response thereto, applicants have amended claims 5 and 6 to more distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention.

Specifically, applicants have clarified that claim 5 is directed to an information processing apparatus and claim 6 is directed to a display device. The similar claim language (i.e. light source and valve) has been removed from both claims. Wherefore, in light of the amendment, applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants’ Response to the Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1 and 3 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *JP 8-55608*.

In response to the rejection of claim 1, applicants have amended the claim to more distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Specifically, applicants have added the limitation that the area of the discharge tube near the electrode is not the lowest point in temperature of the tube. As detailed below, JP-A 8-55608 does not teach or suggest this limitation.

JP-A 8-55608 discloses a fluorescent tube supported by nipping members 22 and heat insulation spacers 23 to prevent the heat of the fluorescent tube from escaping toward the outside in order to improve the initial performance of the fluorescent tube.

Contrary to this, the invention defined by claim 1 as amended is to prevent the portion of the discharge tube near electrodes of the discharge tube from being the lowest portion in temperature in order to improve or elongate the effective life of the discharge tube. In the fluorescent tube of JP-A 8-55608, the portions of the fluorescent tube with which the nipping members 22 come into contact are to be the lowest portions in temperature and, therefore, the effective life thereon cannot be improved.

In regard to claim 3, applicants have also amended the claim to more distinctly claim the subject matter of the invention. Similar to the amendment for claim 1, claim 3 has been amended to recite a structural distinction of the present invention from that of JP'608. Specifically, JP-A 8-55608 discloses a fluorescent tube supported by nipping members 22 and heat insulation spaces 23 to prevent the heat of the fluorescent tube from escaping toward the outside in order to improve the initial performance of the fluorescent tube.

Contrary to this, the invention defined by claim 3 as amended is that the supporting members are arranged so as to prevent metal particles of the electrodes of the discharge tube sputtered by electron from being attached to an inner wall of the discharge tube. Hence, the portion of the discharge tube near the electrodes is prevented from being the lowest portion in temperature. This results in an improved effective life.

JP-A 8-55608 does not suggest at all that the nipping members 22 and the heat insulation spacers 23 be arranged at positions to prevent metal particles of the electrodes to be attached to an inner wall of the discharge tube in order to improve the life. Therefore, JP-A 8-55608 does

not disclose a limitation of amended claim 3. In light of the amendment to claim 3 and the foregoing remarks, applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Miller* (USP 3,636,641). In response thereto, applicants respectfully traverse on the basis that Miller does not disclose each and every limitation of the claim.

Miller relates to an electric bump light bulb, but not to a discharge tube in which discharge is taken place for light emission in the lean gas condition. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that Miller does not disclose a structure which supports the discharge tube by a heat insulation to prevent the portion of the discharge tube near the electrodes of the tube from being the lowest temperature portion in the tube. Wherefore, applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Lu* (USP 5,291,379). In response thereto, applicants respectfully traverse on the basis that Lu does not disclose each and every limitation of the claimed invention.

Specifically, Lu fails to disclose that the reflector is made of resin. Lu discloses a fluorescent tube covered by a cylindrical shell 1 made of resin and the layer of light reflecting metal 11 (made of nickel or mercury) is provided as a reflecting plate. Wherefore, applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and that the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants' Response to the Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *JP 11-84381* in view of *Miller*. In response thereto applicants have amended claim 4 to more distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention.

Specifically, applicants have clarified that the claimed light source device is comprised of a discharge tube wherein the electrode ends thereof are prevented from being the lowest in temperature. Applicants respectfully submit that this limitation is not disclosed by JP-A 11-84381, nor Miller.

JP-A 11-84381 discloses a heat radiator provided to improve the effective life of a fluorescent tube. Miller discloses a supporting member to support an electric light bulb on a reflector. Contrary to this, the invention defined by claim 4 as amended is that a heat conduction member is provided to prevent a portion of the discharge tube near electrodes of the discharge tube from being the lowest point in temperature. Neither JP-A 11-84381 nor Miller teaches such a feature. In light of the amendment to claim 4 and the foregoing remarks, applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and that the rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

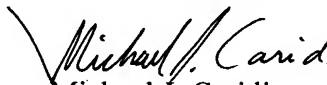
If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No. 031169
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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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